

Claire Brooks
Access Executive



9 November 2023

Rebecca Mordey
Franchise and Access Manager
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
1 Puddledock
London EC4V 3DS

Darren Gay
Track Access Contract Manager
Govia Thameslink Trains Ltd
1st Floor
Monument Place
London EC3R 8AJ

Dear Rebecca and Darren,

Approval of the 57th supplemental agreement to the track access contract between Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and Govia Thameslink Trains Limited dated 8 November 2023.

We have today approved the above supplemental agreement submitted to us formally on 8 November 2023 under section 22 of the Railways Act 1993 (the Act). This follows an earlier informal submission of a draft agreement for our consideration. This letter explains the reasons for our decision.

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to obtain firm rights on various services that have been running without these rights after a full compliance check on GTR contracts discovered these. A full General approval for contingent rights was submitted to the ORR on 17th August 2023, with the rights set to expire on 13th November 2023.

The following amendments to the contract have been identified as being required:

1. Blackfriars to Gatwick and Gatwick to St Pancras International extended to Brighton SU amendment – ET02 Thameslink Sussex Outer
2. London Bridge <> Gatwick extended to Three Bridge SU amendment – ET02 Thameslink Sussex Outer
3. Sutton to Blackfriars extended to St Pancras International SU amendment – ET03 Thameslink South Metro

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4. Blackfriars to Rainham TL – SX amendment – ET13 Thameslink Kent Outer

Industry consultation

Network Rail undertook the usual industry consultation. No concerns were raised.

ORR review

Our review of the application raised no operational, performance or economic concerns.

Our duties under section 4 of the Act and our decision

We have concluded that approval of this supplemental agreement strikes the appropriate balance in discharging our statutory duties under section 4 of the Act; in particular, those relating to protecting the interests of users of railway services (section 4(1)(a)), promoting the use of the railway network for the carriage of passengers (section 4(1)(b)) and enabling persons providing railway services to plan their businesses with a reasonable degree of assurance (section 4(1)(g)).

Conformed copy of the track access agreement

Under clause 18.2.4 of the track access contract, Network Rail is required to produce a conformed copy, within 28 days of any amendment being made, and send copies to ORR and the Train Operator. Please send the conformed copy to me at ORR.

Public register and administration

Electronic copies of this letter, the approval notice and the agreement will be sent to the Department for Transport and Network Rail's Policy and Access Team. Copies of the approval notice and the agreement will be placed on ORR's public register (website) and copies of this letter and the agreement will be placed on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely

Claire Brooks